During 1998-99, Rs. 0.60 crores has been utilised under plan and Rs. 161.20 crores has been utilised under non plan.

(d) Continuous steps are being taken from time to time as per the requirement for the improvement of working efficiency of the DMS.

Running of Private Schools by Scientists of lARI

2645. SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two scientists of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, New Delhi are running a public school, Faith Academy, in Prasad Nagar, New Delhi; and

(b) if so, whether these Government officials have been officially allowed to work in the said school as Manager and Chairman of the Management Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Dr. A. V. N. Paul, National Fellow and Dr. D.V.K. Samuel, Senior Scientist working at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute are serving in the management of the school, Faith Academy which is run by a charitable registered society, called Christian Educational Society.

(b) Faith Academy is run by a charitable society for a social cause. Being members of the Christian minority, Dr. A.V.N. Paul and Dr. D.V.K. Samuel have been nominated by Christian Educational Society to serve as Honorary Manager and Honorary Chairman of the Managing Committee purely on honorary basis during their free time. As per rule 15(2) of the CCS (Conduct) Rules, 1964, previous sanction is not required to take part in the. registration or management (not involving the holding of an elective office) of a literary, scientific or charitable society or of a club or similar organisation.

Concessions to Punjab Farmers

2646. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Wilt the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the concessions and assistance being made available to the farmers of the State of Punjab;

(b) the amount of such concessions and assistance made available during the last three years;

(c) whether Government. are considering to enhance this amount; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (d) The amount of Central assistance provided to Punjab under various . Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation during the last three years is given below:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Amount released
1996-97	31.13
1997-98	25.39
1998-99 (upto 31.12.98)	20.57

Funds for the current year, i.e. 1999-2000 would be released on the basis of proposals received from the State, amount lying unspent out of earlier releases made, overall allocation of the Department, etc.

Production of Wheat

2647. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the estimate of total production of wheat this year;

(b) whether Government have made adequate arrangements for storage of wheat so that plenty does not become a problem;

(c) whether steps are being taken to export wheat to other countries to make proper use of excess wheat; and

(d) steps being taken to pay remunerative prices of wheat to farmers to ensure that they are not put to hardship?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The production of wheat is likely to be 70.63 million tonnes during 1998-99.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State agencies have adequate storage capacities for storage of wheat. All the concerned State Governments have been asked to make available storage capacity for wheat on priority basis. The Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) has also been directed to give overriding priority for storage of foodgrains.

(c) The Government constantly reviews the stock -position of foodgrains in the Centra! Pool *vis-a-vis* the prescribed buffer norms, production of foodgrains, trend of procurement, requirement for PDS/other welfare schemes, open market prices, etc, and decision to import/export of foodgrains is taken depending on the overall situation. However, export can be allowed of only such quantities as are not likely to endanger the PDS in the country or unduly push up prices internally, particularly in respect of staple foodgrains like wheat and rice.

(d) Adequate number of purchase centres are opened before the commencement of the marketing season to procure all the wheat offered for sale by farmers under price support. Control Rooms are set up to monitor the procurement operations and any report of distress sale is promptly referred to the FCI and concerned State Governments for immediate remedial action.

Fruits Production in Andhra Pradesh

2648. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh is the largest fruit producing State in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the annual production of fruits category-wise in terms of quantity and value;

(c) whether it is proposed to assist the State Government to undertake a massive fruit export programme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. the fruit-wise annual production of fruits during 1997-98 is as follows:

SI. No.	Name of Fruit	Production (in tonne)
1.	Banana	11318758
2.	Citrus	1017435
3.	Grapes	35300
4.	Guava	125412
5.	Mango	3314340
6.	Papaya	156900
7.	Sapota	56400
8.	Others	61450
	TOTAL :	5899112

The value of produce is not being maintained.

(c) and (d) The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under the Ministry of Commerce is providing assistance to the Government of Andhra Pradesh in the following ways to promote export of fruits;

Facility for cargo handling and cold storage for the export of various produce including fruits, vegetables and flowers is being set up at Hyderabad International Airport at a cost of Rs. 1.5 crores.